## Message Text

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PAGE 01 HONG K 04405 080600Z ACTION HA-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 VO-05 CIAE-00 SSO-00  $\,$ 

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FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9806

USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY SINGAIJN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY OSLO PRIORITY

INS/CO WASHDC PRIORITY

INS LOS ANGELES PRIORITY

IN REGIONAL OFFICE SAN PEDRO PRIORITY

INS HONOLULU PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

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EO: N/A

TAGS: SREF IPP-78

SUBJECT: NORWEGIAN VESSEL SOS. STOVE APPARENTLY WILL LAND

ITS 71 REFUGEES IN HONG KONG OR MACAU

REF: HONG KONG 4283

- 1. REFTEL REPORTED THAT HONG KONG IMMIGRATION DEPT (HKID) REFUSED PERMISSION TO NORWEGIAN FLAG VESEL JOHANNESBURG STOVE TO LAND 71 INDOCHINA BOAT CASE REFUGEES IN HONG KONG. LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA WAS NEXT PORT OF CALL AND IT APPEARED THAT VESSEL MIGHT HAVE PORCEEDED TO LOS ANGELES.
- 2. CAPTAIN ON BOARD VESSEL STRONGLY DISSENTED FROM ADVICE PROCEED ONWARDS AND HAS BROUGHT VESSEL CLOSE TO HONG KONG WATERS. HE INFORMED SHIP AGENT HERE THAT HE FEARS FOR SAFETY OF TANKER (FULLY LOADED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WITH OIL) WITH 71 REFUGEES ON BOARD FOR 14 DAY TRIP ACROSS PACIFIC WAND THAT VESSEL NOT EQUIPED WITH SUFFICIENT SLEEPING SPACE, MEDICINE, FOOD AND WATER FOR THAT TRIP.

3. CONGEN HAS LEARNED THAT UNHOR, BRITISH MISSION IN GENEVA AND NORWEGIAN CONSULATE GENERAL IN HONG KONG HAVE ALL APPEALED TO HKID TO REVERSE ITS DECISION. HKID NOW REVIEWING SITUATION AND MAY INDEED DECIDE TODAY TO ALLOW REFUGEES TO LAND.

- 4. WE ALSO UNDERSTAND THAT MACAU HAS UNOFFICIALLY CONTACTED NORWEGIAN CONSULATE GENERAL AND OFFERED ACCOMODATE THESE REFUGEES SHOULD HKID MAINTAIN ITS NEGATIVE DECISION.
- 5. IT APPEARS CERTAIN THAT JOHANNESBURG STOVE WILL NOT RPT NOT PROCEED TO LOS ANGELES WITH ITS 71 REFUGEES, BUT WILL BE ABLE LAND THEM EITHER IN HONG KONG, OR FAILING THAT, IN MACAU. NORWEGIAN CONSULATE GENERAL HAS REPEATED ITS PRIOR ASSURANCE THAT NORWAY WILL RESETTLE THESE REFUGEES IF NECESSARY. SHOESMITH

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